

Mr. Speaker, expanding our national treasure, the Smithsonian Institution, to include the National Museum of African American History and Culture is a tremendous opportunity to remember our past while looking forward our common future. I encourage all my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

**URGING THE PRESIDENT TO
PRESENT THE PRESIDENTIAL
MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO HIS HO-
LINESS, POPE JOHN PAUL II**

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor His Holiness Pope John Paul II as Roman Catholics throughout the world celebrate his Silver Jubilee anniversary this year.

The resolution before us, H. Con. Res. 313, recognizes the Pope for his enduring and historic contributions to human dignity and peace and urges President Bush to present him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

I can think of no more fitting a tribute to Pope John Paul II, our first ever non-Italian pope, in honoring his 25th year as Bishop of Rome and Supreme Pastor of the Catholic Church. His service began on October 22, 1978.

As the spiritual leader of more than one billion Catholic Christians worldwide, including 66 million in the United States alone, the resolution memorializes the gratitude of many. During his tenure he has visited more than 125 countries and traveled more than 750,000 miles making unprecedented contributions to the freedom of the world community.

The Holy Father's remarkable work has been globally reaching—from his diplomatic leadership toward the peaceful liberation of his Polish homeland and demise of the Soviet empire, to his promotion of human rights in rogue nations, to his efforts to heal historic divisions between the Catholic Church and other worldwide religions.

Mr. Speaker, whether you are Catholic or not, no one can deny the significant impact Pope John Paul II has made on world peace and freedom. His efforts have improved the lives of Christians and non-Christians alike.

I urge my colleagues to support this special resolution for the honored accomplishments of His Holiness Pope John Paul II—a positive inspiration to Catholics and all humankind.

**ESTABLISHING NATIONAL
AVIATION HERITAGE AREA**

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 280, legislation to create the National Aviation Heritage Area and urge my colleagues to support its passage. H.R. 280 includes as one of its sections, my bill, H.R. 1594, to provide for a suitability and feasibility study of establishing a St. Croix National Heritage Area in the United States Virgin Islands.

The island of St. Croix has a long, distinguished, and varied history, including being the site where Christopher Columbus first stepped onto what is now American soil. There is significant interest in preserving and enhancing the natural, historical and cultural resources of the island on a cooperative basis and such a study would provide guidance on how we can best achieve those purposes.

National Heritage areas are places where natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources combine to form a nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography.

While each island can make a good case for designation, the island of St. Croix with its two historic towns—Christiansted built in 1734 and Frederiksted built in 1752—is richly blessed with all of the attributes that would justify this designation.

The town's historic architecture matured over a 100-year period. The town of Christiansted is one of the finest examples of Danish architectural designs in this hemisphere. Its history can be traced back some 4,000 years to 2500 BC.

In 1493 Columbus arrived at what is now the Salt River National Historic Park and Ecological Preserve, making it the only site under the American flag where his men went ashore, as well as the first recorded hostile encounter between Europeans and Native Americans.

Frederiksted has the distinction of having been the first jurisdiction to have raised its flag in salute of the new republic of the United States of America, and indeed the first designed flag was done by a resident of that island.

Among the many strong ties of great national significance between St. Croix and the United States, perhaps the most significant one is that this island was the boyhood home of Alexander Hamilton, and where he began to develop the skills employed as the first Secretary of the Treasury of this country.

I want to thank Full Committee Chairman POMBO, Ranking Member RAHALL as well as Subcommittee Chairman RADANOVICH for their support is getting H.R. 1594 and H.R. 280 to the floor of the House today.

My colleagues, H.R. 1549 is a good bill, which could serve as a catalyst for reinvigorating the lagging tourism sector on St. Croix. I urge its adoption.

**INCREASING THE WAIVER RE-
QUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN
LOCAL MATCHING REQUIRE-
MENTS TO AMERICAN SAMOA,
GUAM, THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, OR
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1189, to increase the waiver requirement for certain local matching requirements for grants to American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. I want to commend my colleagues ENI FALOMAYAGA and MAD-ELEINE BORDALLO for introducing the bill, which

would increase the matching waiver requirement for the first time in twenty years.

Last year the Resources Committee unanimously passed a similar bill jointly sponsored by our former colleague from Guam Robert Underwood, ENI FALOMAYAGA and myself and I'm pleased that we are once again taking this action.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, it has been nearly twenty years since this law has been revisited. While territorial economies have improved each government, particularly my own, the government of the U.S. Virgin Islands continues to be challenged with rising unemployment, decreased government revenues, and attracting new capital for diversification. H.R. 1189 will help broaden U.S. territories' access to Federal grants by increasing the amount Federal agencies shall waive to \$500,000.

The bill also seeks to end the inconsistent manner in which 48 U.S.C. section 1469(a) is applied by clarifying that the matching waiver applies to all federal agencies and departments making grants to the U.S. territories, not just the Department of Interior (DOI). The bill also requires DOI to provide a report to Congress on the effect of the updated waiver requirement.

It is my hope also Mr. Speaker, that Federal agencies will apply the waiver not just to grants awarded to the territorial governments, but also to non-profit organizations and other eligible non-governmental entities in the territories. Non-profit organizations in the territories fulfill a significant role in our communities. Groups such as Lutheran Social Services, the St. Croix Community Foundation and the V.I. Resource Center help meet the needs of the homeless, the disadvantaged, and those whose lives are buffeted by tough economic times. Their work is often supported by federal grants. Without such Federal assistance, the non-profit organizations in the territories would struggle to meet their missions and most would not be able to maintain the current level of assistance to our communities.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman POMBO and Ranking Member RAHALL for their willingness to support and shepherd this bill through the legislative process. I also want to particularly thank our former colleague Bob Underwood, who for most of his tenure in the House, made increasing the matching waiver for the territories one of his highest priorities. I urge my colleagues to support passage of this bill.

A TRIBUTE TO A.C. LYLES

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, recently I had the privilege of visiting with a great American by the name of A.C. Lyles, who has befriended many celebrities over the years. Throughout the decades that he has worked at Paramount Pictures, A.C. Lyles has become loved by studio staff, by stars, and by Presidents. He has made countless contributions to the motion picture industry and become a legendary producer, writer and partners in numerous theatrical features and television shows.

A.C. Lyles was born May 17, 1918 in Jacksonville, Florida. Even as a young boy, he